

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2022
Location: 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Live Stream Can be Found at the Following Link:
Website: <https://www.georgetowndel.com/live-stream.htm>

Zoom.us/join
Zoom Meeting ID: 848 1408 6638

Time: 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

Bill West, Mayor
Christina Diaz-Malone, Ward One
Sue Barlow, Ward Two
Angela Townsend, Ward Three
Penuel Barrett, Ward Four

STAFF PRESENT:

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Manager Dvornick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor West led the Invocation.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barlow to approve the February 28, 2022 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- No Comment

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2

- There is a lot of housing code enforcement that needs to be addressed

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Would like to start a discussion on Fees.
 - o Town Manager Dvornick: All of the fees will be addressed at our Budget Workshop
- Discussed Code Enforcement Officer vacancy

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Discussed Hometown Heroes Banners coming to Georgetown. Plans to report more at next Council meeting.
- Plans to have more information to report at next Council meeting related to the discussions on the Georgetown Ambulance, Station 93 at the last two meetings.

6. PRESENTATION – GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rachel Culver, Director of the Georgetown Public Library, presented to Mayor and Council the following:

- Thank you to the Town for their direct support
- FY22 Community Engagement at library
- Library Partnerships
 - o FSCAA, Georgetown Arts & Flowers, La Esperanza, Sussex Tech Adult Education, Georgetown COMMUNITY
- Library programs
- Different services offered and its impact on the Community
- Minimum wage increase effect on Library
- ARPA funds for HVAC repairs
- Asking the Town of Georgetown to help bridge the gap in funding
- Council posed questions/comments

7. WENDY MEARS – REQUESTED PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL: “AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GEORGETOWN TO LEARN, EARN, AND RETURN”

Wendy Mears made a presentation to Mayor and Council regarding the following:

- The real Pandemic: Pedophilia and Human Trafficking
- Lack of communication issue
- Discussed events leading up to sharing her comments to Council on October 13 and the events that have unfolded since then.
- Requested minutes’ state the following: “Wendy Elliott Mears spoke in reference to an alleged incident that occurred earlier in the year involving a family member and seven other children who were groomed and touched by a substitute at a school in the Georgetown jurisdiction. The Mears were dissatisfied with the investigation now knowing this substitute can enter any institution or organization with children. No one would bring them in to go over their child’s police report. The Mears were also dissatisfied with the unprofessionalism the Town government gave with this investigation. Instead of the Mears being brought in for clarity, the Town government sought legal counsel.”

8. SETTING OF WORKSHOP DATE TO DISCUSS GREAT FUND

Councilwoman Townsend

- I would like to have some options for the GREAT Fund
 - Perhaps cap the GREAT Fund until we can build up the Emergency Services Fund.
- I would prefer to have a separate workshop – not combined with budget workshop
 - Town Manager Dvornick: Doodle Poll will go out to schedule workshop

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone

- Request to have an agenda at the workshop, and be ready to propose ideas for the GREAT Fund.
- Need to discuss the history of the fund, and the processes and procedures with respect to how the funds are distributed.

9. FY 2023 BUDGET

A. ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION

Town Manager Gene Dvornick presented to Mayor and Council the following:

- Overview of operating expenses
- Specific needs for FY 2023
- Potential areas for savings
- There were no questions or comments from Council

B. PLANNING DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Town Manager Gene Dvornick presented to Mayor and Council the following:

- Overview of operating expenses
- Specific needs for FY 2023
- Potential areas for savings
- Council posed questions and comments

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

2022 Annual Municipal Election

The Notice of Solicitation of Candidates for Mayor, Ward 3, and Ward 4 are currently available. The Candidate Filing Deadline is Thursday, April 14, 2022. Saturday, May 14, 2022, will be the Municipal Election with the polls open 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Former Georgetown Dump Site – Donovans Road

The Department of Natural Resources has completed the Facility Evaluation for the former Georgetown Dump Site (on Donovans Road). Based on their conclusions and recommendations, I am requesting authorization to find a HSCA Certified Consultant to review the Facility Evaluation Report and advise the Town with respect to entering the Voluntary Clean-up Program for this site.

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to authorize the Town Manager to find an HSCA Certified Consultant to review the Facility Evaluation

*Report and advise the Town with respect to entering the Voluntary Clean-up Program for the former Georgetown Dump Site on Donovans Road. **Motion Carried (unanimous)***

DelDOT Hazard Elimination Program

DelDOT has provided the Town with the findings of their Hazard Elimination Program safety study at the intersection of US 113 and College Park Lane. After review of the DelDOT findings with Staff (Planning, Public Works, and Administration), there is agreement the best course of action is to eliminate the Walgreens access point off of College Park Lane and install an all-way stop at the intersection of College Park Lane and Redner's/Walmart parking lot entrances. Staff and I will be working with DelDOT on communication and implementation of these improvements.

Project Updates

- Service Line Replacements
 - South Bedford Street – all services completed
 - Working on permanent patches
 - End of week – valve box, 2" to Big Park PS, 2 new services
- 404 Old Laurel Road
 - Demolition paused for removal of asbestos floor tiles

FY 2023 Budget Workshop

The Finance staff and I have been compiling the various components of the FY 2023 Budget. We would like to schedule a workshop with the Mayor and Council to review the information, identify alternatives, and discuss potential solutions to address any projected shortfall. An online Doodle Poll, with potential dates, will be sent out later this week.

Miscellaneous

- Legislative Update

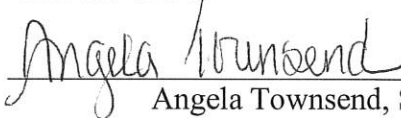
11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sunny Gyani, Park Avenue
 - Plan review process in Town is complicated.
 - Proposed changes in the Planning Department budget presentation should help this process
- Jon Peterson, 304 North Bedford Street
 - Asked Councilwoman Townsend if she read the GREAT Fund Ordinance 2007-15. Stated that Councilwoman Barlow helped write this Ordinance, and she should be able to answer any questions anyone has related to the ordinance.
 - Asked the Town to suspend Return Day arrangements with the Marvel Museum until the confederate flag on their property is permanently removed.
- Comments were made in reference to Wendy Mears' presentation by two individuals.

12. ADJOURNMENT

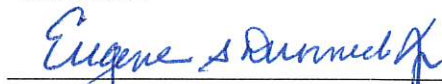
Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adjourn at 8:20pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED:



Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:



Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager

These minutes are a summary of the meeting. Complete audio and visual recordings are available upon request